

Message Text

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22

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 HEW-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /075 W

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R 072106Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8286

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3128

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, CI

SUBJ: GOC EFFORTS TO CONTROL HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

REF: SANTIAGO 2929

1. EMBOFFS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW UP WITH DEFENSE ATTORNEY THE CASE REPORTED IN REFTTEL OF MILITARY COURT "OFFICIAL" INVOLVED IN "ELIMINATION OF PRISONERS."
2. LAWYER TOLD US IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT FORMAL TRIAL IS SCHEDULED TO START LATER IN MONTH OF FIVE CARABINEROS (UNIFORMED NATIONAL POLICE) ACCUSED OF HAVING KILLED SEVEN PERSONS ABOUT A YEAR AGO. FROM HIS TALKS WITH DEFENDANTS, APPEARS KILLINGS WERE INDISCRIMINANT AND WITHOUT IDENTIFIABLE CAUSE OR ORDERS. CARABINEROS SAID THEY DID NOT EVEN KNOW WHO PERSONS WERE.
3. RECENTLY ONE OF CARABINEROS, A PROTESTANT WITH A CONSCIENCE, REPORTEDLY WENT TO CHILEAN ARMY "FISCAL" (CORRESPONDS TO US ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE CORPS WITH STORY, AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS WERE PUT INTO MOTION. LAWYER WAS SURPRISED THAT ARMY TOOK THIS INITIATIVE; HE SPECULATED THAT ELEMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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RIVALRY WITH CARABINEROS COULD HAVE PLAYED A PART, BUT

MORE IMPORTANTLY THAT "FISCAL" MUST HAVE CHECKED UP THE CHAIN OF COMMAND BEFORE MAKING HIS DECISION. HE COMMENTED THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD HAVE BEEN INCONCEIVABLE EARLIER.

4. ACCORDING TO LAWYER, ONE OF CARABINEROS SAID HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN KILLING OF SOME 70 PEOPLE. WHEN THIS WAS SURFACED IN TRIAL PREPARATIONS, "FISCAL" TOOK STEPS TO CUT IT OFF AND LIMIT TRIAL TO THE SEVEN KILLINGS.

5. COMMENT: THERE MAY STILL BE MUCH MORE TO THIS CASE THAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD, AND OF COURSE WE CANNOT GUARANTEE WORD OF OUR SOURCE. IT IS NOTABLE THAT THE ARMY APPARENTLY DECIDED TO PROSECUTE THE CASE. BOYATT

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